

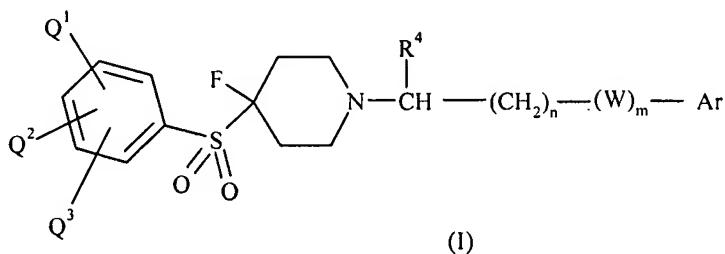
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-19 and insert therefore Claims 20-26 as follow.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-19 (canceled)

20. (New) A compound of the formula I:



wherein:

Ar is phenyl, benzisothiazol-3-yl or benzthiophen-3-yl, each of which bears substituent groups R¹, R² and R³;

R¹ is hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₂₋₆ alkenyloxy, C₂₋₆ alkynyloxy, or C₁₋₆ alkyl substituted with 1-5 fluorine atoms;

R² is hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₁₋₄ alkyl substituted with 1-5 fluorine atoms or C₁₋₄ alkoxy substituted with 1-5 fluorine atoms;

R³ is hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, methyl, methoxy, trifluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy or difluoromethoxy;

Q¹ is hydrogen; fluorine; chlorine; bromine; C₁₋₆ alkyl; C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl; C₂₋₆ alkenyl; C₂₋₆ alkynyl; C₁₋₆ alkoxy; C₂₋₆ alkenyloxy; C₂₋₆ alkynyloxy; C₁₋₆ alkyl substituted with 1-5 fluorine atoms; nitrile; COQ⁴ or CO₂Q⁴ where Q⁴ is hydrogen or C₁₋₆ alkyl; NQ⁵Q⁶, CONQ⁵Q⁶ or SO₂NQ⁵Q⁶ where Q⁵ is hydrogen or C₁₋₆ alkyl and Q⁶ is hydrogen or C₁₋₆ alkyl or Q⁵ and Q⁶ are joined to form either a 4-7 membered heterocyclic ring which may also contain one oxygen or one further nitrogen ring atom, which heterocyclic ring may optionally be substituted by up to 3 fluorine atoms or by CF₃, methyl, ethyl or hydroxyl; hydroxyl; nitro; SOQ⁷ or SO₂Q⁷ where Q⁷ is C₁₋₄ alkyl;

NQ^8COQ^9 , $\text{NQ}^8\text{CO}_2\text{Q}^9$ or $\text{NQ}^8\text{SO}_2\text{Q}^9$ where Q^8 is hydrogen or $\text{C}_{1-4}\text{alkyl}$ and Q^9 is hydrogen or $\text{C}_{1-4}\text{alkyl}$ or is joined to Q^8 to form a 5-7 membered ring; a heteroaromatic ring of 5 ring atoms 1, 2, 3 or 4 of which may be nitrogen atoms or 1 or 2 of which are nitrogen atoms and 1 of which is an oxygen or sulfur atom or 1 of which is an oxygen or sulfur atom, which heteroaromatic ring optionally being substituted by methyl, ethyl or hydroxyl; or a heteroaromatic ring of 6 ring atoms containing 1 or 2 nitrogen ring atoms or a phenyl group either of which is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 fluorine or chlorine atoms or $\text{C}_{1-4}\text{alkyl}$, $\text{C}_{1-4}\text{alkoxy}$ or trifluoromethyl groups;

Q^2 is hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, nitrile, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkyl substituted with 1-5 fluorine atoms, or C_{1-4} alkoxy substituted with 1-5 fluorine atoms;

Q^3 is hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, methyl, methoxy, trifluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy or difluoromethoxy;

or Q^2 and Q^3 are joined to form the residue of a 5, 6 or 7 membered carbocyclic ring;

R^4 is H or C_{1-4} alkyl,

m is 0 or 1;

n is 0, 1 or 2; and

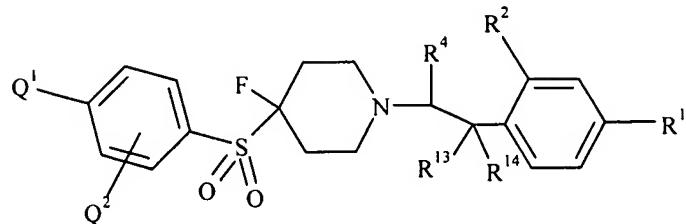
W is $-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CHF}-$, $-\text{CH}(\text{OH})-$ or $-\text{CO}-$;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

21. (New) The compound of Claim 20 wherein Ar is benzisothiazol-3-yl or benzthiophen-3-yl, each bearing substituent groups R^1 , R^2 and R^3 , m is 0 and n is 0.

22. (New) The compound of Claim 20 wherein Ar is phenyl bearing substituent groups R^1 , R^2 and R^3 , m is 1 and n is 0.

23. (New) The compound of Claim 20 of the formula IIA:



(IIA)

wherein R¹³ represents H; and R¹⁴ represents H, F or OH; or R¹³ and R¹⁴ together represent keto;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

24. (New) The compound of Claim 20 wherein Q¹ is selected from H, F, Cl, Br, CN, carboxamide, 5-membered heteroaryl and NQ⁵Q⁶ where Q⁵ and Q⁶ complete a heterocyclic ring;

Q² is H, F or Cl;

Q³ is H or F;

R¹ is H, F, methyl or CF₃;

R² is H, F, methyl or CF₃; and

R³ is H.

25. (New) A compound which is selected from the group consisting of:

4-(4-Bromophenylsulfonyl)-1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoropiperidine;

1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-(4-fluorophenylsulfonyl)piperidine;

4-(1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoropiperidin-4-yl)sulfonyl)benzonitrile;

4-(1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoropiperidin-4-yl)sulfonyl)benzamide;

4-(4-Fluoro-1-[2-(2-fluorophenyl)ethyl]piperidin-4-yl)sulfonyl)benzamide;

4-Fluoro-4-(4-fluorophenylsulfonyl)-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]piperidine;

4-Fluoro-4-(4-fluorophenylsulfonyl)-1-[2-(2-fluorophenyl)ethyl]piperidine;

4-Fluoro-4-(4-fluorophenylsulfonyl)-1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidine;

4-(4-Fluoro-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]piperidin-4-yl)sulfonyl)benzonitrile;

4-(4-Fluoro-1-[2-(2-fluorophenyl)ethyl]piperidin-4-yl)sulfonyl)benzonitrile;

4-([4-Fluoro-1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]sulfonyl)benzonitrile;

4-({4-Fluoro-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]piperidin-4-yl}sulfonyl)benzamide;
4-{{4-Fluoro-1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-ylsulfonyl}benzamide;
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-(phenylsulfonyl)piperidine;
4-Fluoro-1-(2-(2-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-(phenylsulfonyl)piperidine;
4-Fluoro-1-(2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-(phenylsulfonyl)piperidine;
4-Fluoro-1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-(phenylsulfonyl)piperidine;
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-(2-fluorophenylsulfonyl)piperidine;
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-(3-fluorophenylsulfonyl)piperidine;
4-(4-Chlorophenylsulfonyl)-1-[2-(2,4-difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoropiperidine;
4-({4-Fluoro-1-[(6-fluoro-1,2-benzisothiazol-3-yl)methyl]piperidin-4-yl}sulfonyl)benzonitrile;
6-Fluoro-3-({4-fluoro-4-[(4-fluorophenyl)sulfonyl]piperidin-1-yl}methyl)-1,2-benzisothiazole;
4-[4-({1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoropiperidin-4-yl}sulfonyl)phenyl]morpholine;
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-[4-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)phenylsulfonyl]piperidine;
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-[4-(piperidin-1-yl)phenylsulfonyl]piperidine;
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-{4-[4-(trifluoromethyl)piperidin-1-yl]phenylsulfonyl}-piperidine;
4-[4-(Azetidin-1-yl)phenylsulfonyl]-1-[2-(2,4-difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoropiperidine;
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-[4-(4,4-difluoropiperidin-1-yl)phenylsulfonyl]-4-fluoropiperidine;
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-[4-([1,2,3]triazol-1-yl)phenylsulfonyl]piperidine;
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-[4-(pyrrol-1-yl)phenylsulfonyl]piperidine;
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-[4-(pyrazol-1-yl)phenylsulfonyl]piperidine;
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-{[3-fluoro-4-(pyrazol-1-yl)phenyl]sulfonyl}piperidine;
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-{[3-fluoro-4-(imidazol-1-yl)phenyl]sulfonyl}piperidine;
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-{[3-fluoro-4-(1,2,3-triazol-1-yl)phenyl]sulfonyl}-piperidine;
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-{[3-fluoro-4-(1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)phenyl]sulfonyl}-piperidine;
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-[4-(1,3-oxazol-2-yl)phenylsulfonyl]piperidine;

1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-[4-(1-methylpyrazol-5-yl)phenylsulfonyl]piperidine;
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-[4-(1-methylimidazol-2-yl)phenylsulfonyl]piperidine;
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-[4-(2-methyltetrazol-5-yl)phenylsulfonyl]piperidine;
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)phenylsulfonyl]piperidine;
4-[(2-Bromo-4-fluorophenyl)sulfonyl]-1-[2-(2,4-difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoropiperidine;
(RS)-1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)-2-fluoroethyl]-4-fluoro-4-(phenylsulfonyl)piperidine;
2-[4-Fluoro-4-(4-fluorophenylsulfonyl)piperidin-1-yl]-1-(4-fluorophenyl)ethanone;
(RS)-4-Fluoro-1-[2-fluoro-2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-(4-fluorophenylsulfonyl)piperidine;
4-(4-Fluoro-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-oxoethyl]piperidin-4-yl)sulfonyl)benzonitrile;
1-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2-[4-fluoro-4-(phenylsulfonyl)piperidin-1-yl]ethanone;
(RS)-4-(1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)-2-fluoroethyl]-4-fluoropiperidin-4-yl)sulfonyl)benzamide;
(RS)-4-(4-Fluoro-1-[2-fluoro-2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]piperidin-4-yl)sulfonyl)benzamide;
(RS)-1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)-1-methylethyl]-4-fluoro-4-(4-fluorophenylsulfonyl)-
piperidine;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof

26. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of
Claim 20 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically
acceptable carrier.